

REMARKS

Claims 5-11, 13, 19, and 20, as amended, remain herein.

Claims 1-4, 12, 14-18, 21, 22, 53, and 59 have been canceled without prejudice.

All rejections of these claims are therefore moot.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 8 and 19 are allowable. Claims 7 and 9 were amended to change their dependency to allowed claim 8, and claims 13 and 20 were amended to be dependent upon allowed claim 19.

The foregoing amendments to the claims place this application fully in condition for allowance, and certainly in better condition for any appeal. Accordingly, entry of this amendment and allowance of all claims are respectfully solicited.

Independent claim 5, and claims 6, 9, 12-17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Balachandran in view of Rohrbaugh.

Applicants' amended claim 5 recites weighting possible faults, and providing fault coverage by identifying a fault coverage value from the sum of the weighted possibility of detected weighted possible faults.

The Office Action equates the claimed step of weighting with Balachandran's alleged teachings of ranking. Applicants do not concur with this rationale. Balachandran does not teach or suggest summing a weighted possibility of detected weighted possible faults, or providing fault coverage by identifying a fault coverage value from the sum of the weighted possibility of detected weighted possible faults. The Rohrbaugh patent is similarly devoid of any such teaching or suggestion.

Accordingly, claim 5 recites a combination of features which is patentably distinct over the cited prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 5, as well as dependent claims 6, 9, 12-17, and 20 and allowance of the same are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the allowance of claims 8 and 19, dependent claims 7, 9, 13, and 20 are now patentably distinct over the applied art, and withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the same are therefore requested.

Accordingly, the application is now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Any amendments to the claims not specifically argued to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art have been made for clarity, a purpose unrelated to patentability.

If a telephone conference would be of value, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28951.5186).

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Watkins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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